

**REMARKS**

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-14 and 18-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 18, 35-37, 39, and 40 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 18, and 37.

**Claim Amendments**

Independent claims 1, 18, 35-37, and 40 have been amended by way of this reply. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, on page 34, lines 5-24 and on page 43, lines 6-9 of the present application. Additionally, Dependent claims 3, 6, and 23 have been amended to clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicant believes the included amendments do not require a new search, or at least simplify issues for appeal, and accordingly, applicant respectfully requests entry and favorable consideration thereof.

**Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112****Claim 3**

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 3 has been amended in this reply in view of this rejection. Specifically, claim 3 requires preparing second print setting information based on

printer characteristic information, but does not require that printer characteristic information is sent from said host device. Similarly, claim 3 requires printing the print object data based on said first print setting information and/or second print setting information, but does not require printing the print object data sent from said host device. Accordingly, claim 3 does not contain subject matter which was not described in the Specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

*Claims 6-10 and 23-27*

Claims 6-10 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 6 and 23 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Claims 6 and 23 now clearly require that print object data from the host device is requested, by the printer, to be arranged within the divided prescribed partial areas based on the first print setting information. Accordingly, claims 6 and 23 are no longer indefinite. Claims 7-10, dependent on claim 6, and claims 24-27, dependent on claim 23, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 6 and 23. Accordingly, withdrawal of this § 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

**Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102**

Independent claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 issued to Gase (hereinafter “Gase”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a printer that sets printing details in response to print setting information sent from a host device. As discussed with reference to Figure 27 of the Specification, a host device **2** in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention comprises a print control unit **271** that performs control related to the process of printing. For example, when instructed to suspend printing, the print control unit **271** outputs necessary command data to the communication interface unit **273** (*see* Specification, page 42, lines 16-27). Command data, which contains print specification information, is prepared in the print setting request unit **274**, and output to the communication interface unit **273**. Print specification information may include information related to print quality, page format, and similar information, and may be set in advance or input from the user interface **272** (*see* Specification, page 43, lines 2-9).

Accordingly, independent claim 39 requires, in part, that a data output means read print object data from a prescribed storage device based on command data relating to a data request sent from the printer in response to the command data output from a setting request function, and outputting command data relating to data transmission based on the print object data.

In contrast to the present invention, Gase merely discloses a method of enabling remote control of a print queue (*see* Gase, abstract). In Gase, a plurality of client processors **10**, **12** communicate with a network printer **14** via the World Wide Web. Each client processor **10**, **12** may have a print job to submit to printer **14**. Print management for printer **14** is accomplished via a server procedure **24**, and responds to client messages (*i.e.*, print jobs) (*see* Gase, col. 2, line 65 – col. 3, line 23). However, Gase is completely silent with respect to command data as required by independent claim 39. Further, Gase is silent with respect to outputting command data based on a setting request function. The Examiner asserts that a

change button 60 is equivalent to a setting request function for outputting command data. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Gase, in disclosing a change button 60, merely discloses a manner in which a user may manipulate print jobs listed on a job queue 28 (*see* Gase, col. 4, lines 9-36). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that as a change button is manipulated by a user, this is not used in response to command data, as required by independent claim 39.

In view of the above, Gase fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 39. Thus, independent claim 39 is patentable over Gase. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103**

##### *Claims 1-5, 11-14, 35, 37, 38, and 40*

Claims 1-5, 11-14, 35, 37, 38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Pipeline Corporation, The Hard Copy Observer, March 1997 (hereinafter "Pipeline") in view of Gase. Independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the present invention is directed to a printer that sets printing details in response to print setting information sent from a host device. Further, as discussed with reference to Figure 24 of the Specification, a printer 1 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention receives data from the host unit via a communication interface unit 241. A print setting processing unit 243 relates print settings from the host device 2 based on predefined commands (*see* Specification, page 33, lines 6-14). As shown in Figure 25 of the Specification, the print setting processing unit 243 processes data related to the print quality setting. Information may be output to the print setting information storage unit 245 in a

converted format to fit the specification of the printer 1 (*see* Specification, page 34, lines 6-17). In one embodiment of the present invention, the information output to the print setting information storage unit 245 may be stored as a relative designation indicating a relative value proportional to the limits of the given printer's 1 characteristics (*see* Specification, page 34, lines 18-25).

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40 require receiving first print setting information sent from a host device, where the first print setting information comprises print specification information, and where the print specification information comprises at least one of a format of a page to be printed and a print quality. Further, amended independent claim 35 requires that the first print setting information is a relative designation and comprises print specification information, and that a second print setting information based on the characteristic information is stored in a first storage means, where the second print setting information is an absolute designation.

Pipeline, in contrast to the present invention, fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention. Pipeline is directed to a software product designed for OEM printer manufacturers to print a web page directly from the internet (*see* Pipeline, page 45, col. 1, lines 1-16). Pipeline does not show or suggest print specification information as required by the claimed invention. The Examiner attempts to equate a "Programmable Link Retriever" and proprietary scheduling software that allows for the automated printing of web pages at a particular time to print specification information (*see* Pipeline, page 45, col. 1, lines 31-52). However, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that this is, as described by Pipeline, merely a method for users to specify what web pages to print (*see* Pipeline, page 45, col. 1, lines 31-34). In practice, this is no different than showing a method similar to programming a VCR to record a particular program at a given time. Pipeline does not show or suggest a device sending

print specification information as required by the claimed invention. Pipeline is completely silent with respect to receiving first print setting information sent from a host device, where the first print setting information comprises print specification information, and where the print specification information comprises at least one of a format of a page to be printed and a print quality. Further, Pipeline is silent with respect to absolute and relative designations of print settings.

Gase, as discussed above, fails to disclose that which Pipeline lacks. As discussed above, Gase is directed to a method to enable the remote control of a print queue in a network printer (*see* Gase, abstract). The Examiner asserts that Gase teaches print setting information including print specification information. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Gase discloses a job detail page which enables a client processor to exert control over a print queue. Specifically, as seen with respect to Figure 4 of Gase, the job detail page enables a user to see particular information about the print job such as the number of pages printed (*see* Gase, col. 4, lines 9-19). Gase also discloses changing particular attributes of a given print job, such as the priority of the print job or the number of copies to be printed, *at the user's specific request* (*see* Gase, col. 4, lines 38-46). However, it would be apparent to one skilled in the art that Gase is completely silent with respect to sending or receiving print specification information from a host device as required by the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Pipeline and Gase, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40 are patentable over Pipeline and Gase. Dependent claims 2-5, 11-14, and 38 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-22, 28-34 and 36

Claims 18-22, 28-34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Pipeline in view of Gase, and U.S. Patent No. 5,138,696 issued to Nagata (hereinafter "Nagata"). Independent claims 18 and 36 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claims 18 and 36 contain the same limitation discussed above with reference to amended independent claims 1, 35, 37, and 40. As discussed above, Pipeline and Gase fail to show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention. Nagata fails to show or suggest that which Pipeline and Gase lack. Nagata is directed to a font memory card that has ROM for storing character data for a printer (*see* Nagata, abstract). Specifically, Nagata teaches a converting outline font data into bit map font data (*see* Nagata, col. 1, lines 7-10). Nagata is completely silent with respect to print specification information as required by the claimed invention. Specifically, Nagata does not teach or suggest receiving print object data from a host device designated by first print setting information based on command data relating to the print setting. Further, Nagata does not teach or suggest that the first print setting information comprises print specification information, and that the print specification information comprises at least one of a format of a page to be printed and a print quality.

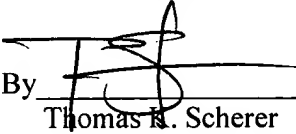
In view of the above, Pipeline, Gase, and Nagata, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 18 and 36. Thus, amended independent claims 18 and 36 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, and Nagata. Dependent claims 19-22 and 28-34 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/016001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
Thomas R. Scherer  
Registration No.: 45,079  
OSHA · LIANG LLP  
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800  
Houston, Texas 77010  
(713) 228-8600  
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant